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an attempt here would be a work of supererogation. It should however be stated that the author very often follows the lead of those who announce — apparently without sufficiently careful comparisons — the identity of many European and American forms ; we are convinced that such instances will be hereafter shown to be exceedingly limited in number.

The work is one of great importance, and an indispensable hand-book for any entomologist engaged in the study of Butterflies. It is printed in a compact form, modelled upon a good plan and published at a reasonable price ; we trust that it may compensate the compiler for the labor, vexation, and patient study which such a task required.— S. H. S.

TOPOGRAPHICAL ATLAS OF MASSACHUSETTS.—There has been recently published a topographical atlas of the state, which is of such a character as to demand special consideration. It was compiled by Messrs. Walling & Gray, and seems calculated to meet an existing and long-felt want.

It opens with a general view of the topography of Massachusetts, which is followed by a succinct summary of its history by Albert H. Hoyt. This summary contains a statement of some of the more important events characteristic of the period of settlement, of the colonial period, and that of the commonwealth proper, with lists of the most prominent public officers.

A rather complete history of the railways of Massachusetts is given by Edward Appleton, Railway Commissioner, while there appears in another part of the work an abstract of School Returns, including the population of each town and county, from the United States Census of 1870, followed by a list of the cities, towns, villages, post offices, railway and telegraph stations.

A rapid sketch of the geology of Massachusetts, with a revised geological map, has been furnished by Charles H. Hitchcock, Professor of Geology in Dartmouth College. This account is, in part, an epitome of the results reached by the late President Hitchcock, there being many modifications suggested to the son by more recent studies. While the classification of the rocks is by no means satisfactory to the writer, the identification of many of the beds being very questionable, and while the recognition of the Eozoon as organic is certainly premature, it should still be remembered that the geology of Massachusetts is in no wise as yet

thoroughly worked out, and that this sketch with the accompanying map will be likely to prove of great service to thousands; who may by these means gain some knowledge of the structure of this portion of the earth's surface.

A brief and accurate account of the principal vegetable forms found in the state, also a like account of its more prominent animals, might be introduced into this part of the volume, in subsequent editions, with no small advantage to the young and to all those who have not access to more purely scientific works.

The volume also contains a short sketch of the climate of Massachusetts, with a climatological map, by Lorin Blodget, author of "Climatology of the United States." This is an interesting feature of the work and is calculated to attract attention, especially in view of the marked prominence which the subject has recently assumed.

Finally, there follows a series of maps to which the several portions of the work already mentioned really serve, and properly, as an introduction. Of these maps, three are general, one being of the United States and Territories, another of New England, while the third is a railway and township map of Massachusetts. There come next maps of the several counties of the state, on a scale of two and a half miles to an inch; and last of all, maps of Boston and vicinity, and of the other principal cities in the Commonwealth.

In the construction of these maps no small expense has been incurred, and much care exercised. The compilers have availed themselves of the results of the astronomical, trigonometrical and various local surveys, and have spared no pains in their efforts to render their work deserving of confidence. While absolute correctness has not been reached and is not claimed, a fair degree of accuracy has been very generally secured. Though the maps be by no means equal to many of those recently published in Europe under government patronage, they are yet, for the ordinary purposes for which they are likely to be consulted, calculated to be almost equally useful; and while the government maps referred to are very expensive, these cost the buyer scarcely a tithe in proportion, and will be of immense practical value in rendering a better knowledge of the topography and physical features of the state possible to citizens at large.

The publication of this atlas being thus an important step in

the right direction, it is to be hoped that it will prove widely useful, in awakening and developing an intelligent interest in the geography and natural history of the state.—J. B. P.

TWO LATE AMERICAN PAPERS ON ORNITHOLOGY.\*—Mr. Ogden's article is an acceptable contribution, but like most early essays would have been the better for competent supervision. Rüppel is not the author of the Planches Enluminées, nor can we accept, even on Linnean authority, St. Domingo as the habitat of an Asiatic bird. When geographical names are totally inept, ornithologists cancel them; *C. Dominica* (L.) should stand as *C. Brissoni* Wag., and *C. Ludoviciana* (Gm.) as *C. miles* Bodd., the latter having, moreover, priority. Without criticising the specific determinations, several of which appear to require modification, we must indicate an oversight respecting the four species Mr. Ogden has not seen. Arranging the eleven of the Academy's collection in three groups, according to the development of the wattles and carpal spines, the writer continues directly with numbers 12–15, which brings them under "c, species devoid of wattles" etc., which is not the case with all of them. Thus, *C. miles* is a wattled and spined species, very near if not identical with *C. personatus* Gould, which Mr. Ogden correctly locates under *a*. Some other species here admitted are probably invalid, as *C. Uralensis* Evers., which is generally assigned to *leucurus*. The term "*Lobivanellus*" is not exactly synonymous with *Chettusia*, as would seem from the title of the paper, these names being merely two of several that have been proposed for different groups of these birds. The new species is *C. nivifrons*, from "Fazoglou," belonging, as we judge from the plate, to the unwattled group.

Mr. Lawrence describes *Catherpes Sumichrasti*, apparently a second species of the genus, although, as the tail is wanting, he is not satisfied of its position. It is, he says, "rather a remarkable looking bird," with the bill shaped precisely as in *C. Mexicanus*; of stouter form and darker colors, with small white abdominal spots like the dorsal ones of that species. The type is in the Smithsonian Institution, from Vera Cruz. Three new fly-catchers are *Myiozetetes*

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\*Synopsis of the genus *Chettusia* (*Lobivanellus*), with a description of a New Species. By J. A. Ogden. Pr. A. N. S. Phil., Oct. 1871, 194; pl. 1. Descriptions of New Species of birds of the families Troglodytidae and Tyrannidae. By Geo. N. Lawrence. Ibid. Nov. 1871, p. 233.